

the 26th District of Texas, and with each I and my staff have come to rely on his timely and thorough briefings during which he patiently shared the progress and challenges unique to each situation.

As Mr. Jones enters retirement, the region loses a reliable and dedicated public servant. I wish for him many well-earned years to spend time with his wife Mary, daughter Shea Hutchison, and his granddaughter. I am honored to represent Gary Jones and FEMA Region 6 in Washington, D.C., and on behalf of the constituents of the 26th District of Texas I rise to thank him for his service.

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RECOGNIZING KENT CONINE AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THE CAUSE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize Kent Conine of Dallas, TX. Mr. Conine has spent his career working to provide affordable housing for the citizens of the great State of Texas. As a homebuilder, Mr. Conine has made significant and lasting contributions to his local community and the housing industry. President of Conine Residential Group, Mr. Conine has helped thousands of Texans fulfill their American Dream of homeownership.

However, his efforts extend beyond his personal business. Mr. Conine has served as Chairman of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), on the Board of Directors Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, and as President of the Texas Association of Builders, the National Association of State of Housing Boards, and the National Association of Homebuilders.

This evening in Austin, Texas the Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers is honoring Mr. Conine for his years of service and unwavering dedication to the people of Texas. I wish to join them in thanking Kent for everything he has done, and continues to do, to promote the American Dream of homeownership in Texas.

HONORING THE SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY COUGARS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2011 NAIA CHAMPIONSHIP

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**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saint Xavier University for winning the 2011 NAIA National Football Championship. I am very proud of Head Coach Mike Feminis and the SXU Cougars for defeating reigning champion Carroll College 24–20 and bringing back the Chicago area's first collegiate football national championship since 1913.

Congratulations are also in order for longtime Athletics Director Bob Hallberg, University President Christine Wiseman, and all the faculty, staff, and students at Saint Xavier, Chicago's oldest Catholic University, which is located in the Third District in the Mt. Greenwood neighborhood and in Orland Park.

The Cougars fielded a balanced team all year. They stifled opponents' offenses with an experienced defense and confused the opposition's defenses with a fast-paced spread offense. Senior captains Patrick Appino and Michael Prosser led one of the top defenses in the country, holding Carroll's running back, the NAIA player of the year, to only 57 yards rushing in the championship game. On offense, local standouts Shane Zackery and Wes Gastel combined for 13 receptions and 109 yards receiving. Zackery and Gastel also provided quarterback Jimmy Coy and the rest of the offense favorable field position on several occasions with four kick returns for 113 yards. This balanced attack has been Coach Feminis' recipe for success all season long.

I am proud to have the Cougars call my district home, not only because they are the best NAIA football team in the country, but also because they embody all the best attributes of true student-athletes. Coach Feminis is proud of the familial atmosphere he creates in the team's facilities and the emphasis he places on academics. I am certain the tradition of success Coach Feminis has established will continue for a long time at SXU.

Please join me in honoring these hard-working, dedicated, and honorable men for a memorable season and bringing a championship home to Chicago.

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HONORING SGT. GUY MELLOR

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**HON. JASON CHAFFETZ**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the incredible service and dedication of Sgt.

Guy Mellor, a resident of Fayette, Utah and a real American hero. As he served his country as a member of the Utah Army National Guard, he set aside his personal aspirations of becoming a Civil Engineer to prepare for the Army's Best Warrior Competition Noncommissioned Officer for 2011. With much preparation he won the State, Regional, and National level competitions.

Sgt. Mellor had to compete against twelve Major Army Commands in a series of tests including physical fitness, marksmanship, battle drills, a written exam, and a board interview conducted by seven of the Army's top leaders. This is only the second time in the history of this competition that a National Guard Soldier has won this prestigious award.

I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments of this valiant man who placed service to his country above that of his own ambitions. Sgt. Mellor is a great example of the men and women that are currently serving our country in various branches of the armed services. I am grateful to every one of them for the great sacrifice that they make every day.

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IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE OF MR. JOCK SMITH

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**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 17, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Jock Smith who passed away on January 8, 2012.

Mr. Smith was born in Manhattan, New York, on June 10, 1948, and graduated from Tuskegee University and later the University of Notre Dame Law School. He returned to Alabama after receiving his law degree.

Mr. Smith was an attorney and senior partner at the National Law Firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens and Smith, P.C. He also worked as a sports agent for Cochran Sports Management, Assistant Attorney General of the State of Alabama and as a professor of political science at Tuskegee University.

Mr. Smith was a member of Christian Life Church in Montgomery, Alabama. He was married to Yvette Smiley-Smith and had a daughter Janay Johnson.

We honor the memory of Mr. Jock Smith today.